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[REDACTED]

23 November 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

ATTENTION: Chief, A/PC

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Views on CIA Estimate of
Chinese Population

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REFERENCE: CSM 46/59, dated 25 August 1959

1. There are some reservations here on ORR's revision of its estimate of the population of Communist China. These reservations center on the evaluation of the data attributed to an Indian demographer in CSM 46/59, 25 August 1959, C. The original source of these new figures has not been seen here so it is difficult to judge their reliability or accuracy without knowing the context within which they were presented. We have however seen articles by this Indian demographer (Far Eastern Economic Review, Vol. XXVI, No. 23, 4 June 1959 and No. 24, 11 June 1959) in which the statistics on population and vital rates differ from those quoted in CSM 46/59. Since the data cited in both sources is presumably derived from the same visit to China, it would be interesting to know why they vary.

25X1X7 2. There is no disagreement with the logic of the argument presented in the referenced CSM. The question appears to be one of judging the reliability of the figures which CIA has obtained from the Indian demographer. Would it be possible [REDACTED] to obtain fuller information on the new statistics, particularly the population estimates for 1957 and 1958, which were received from the Indian demographer?

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